Guernsey Hockey LBG – UMPIRE GUIDELINES

Bulletin 3 – 10 September 2010

Effective from the 1st September 2010 the following will apply to the Men's Leagues, Women's League and all Cup Competitions organised by the GHLBG:

Foul and Abusive Language

GHLBG is increasingly concerned by the level of foul and abusive language that can be heard at matches. The game of hockey has traditionally attracted a family audience with many young players and spectators. Swearing sets the wrong example and brings the game into disrepute. In an effort to reverse this trend and eliminate swearing altogether by players and officials during matches, GHLBG instructs umpires to be more pro-active in managing the use of foul and abusive language when it occurs on the field of play or in the immediate vicinity e.g. on the sidelines by club officials and/or substitutes.

It is accepted that the use of unsavoury language can be the result of a range of incidents from the self deprecation because of a poor pass, mis-hit or similar, to abuse of an opponent following a bad tackle by the latter, to abuse of the umpire because of a perceived incorrect decision. Clearly, the severity of the use of this language will govern how it should be dealt with.

It may be appropriate to deal with the more minor instances by a verbal warning and/or a Green Card.

However, the more serious incidents **must** be dealt with more severely with the use of a Yellow Card and suspension. The more serious the use of offensive language, the longer the suspension should be given.

Umpires are reminded that substitutes can be disciplined even though they may not be on the field at the time. In the event that a substitute is Yellow Carded, his team must play with one player less for the duration of his/her suspension.

Also, please note that abusive language may not necessarily involve the use of swear words.

Only with umpires pro-actively managing the use of offensive language by players and officials will we be able to eradicate its use on the field of play.